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UP-COMING EVENTS

- April 2, 2005
Park Day — Civil War
Preservation Trust
www.civilwar.org
- April 15-17, 2005
National Youth Service Day
www.ysa.org
- April 17-23, 2005
National Volunteer Week
www.pointsoflight.org
- April 22, 2005
Earth Day
www.earthday.gov
- May 7, 2005
Take Pride in Nebraska Day
www.ngpc.state.ne.us
- May 14-22, 2005
National River Cleanup
Week
www.nationalrivercleanup.com
- May 14-15, 2005
Good Sam International
Cleanup Day
www.goodsams.net

A Note from our Executive Director



Take Pride in
AURORA

On Saturday, March 19, I along with a dedicated corps of volunteers cleaned 11 miles of High Line Canal that runs through Aurora before the canal's spring release of water into Sand and Tollgate Creeks. All told, 475 volunteers participated in the Great High Line Canal Clean-up Caper, assisting the City of Aurora in the removal of over 6 tons of waste from the canal and surrounding areas.

The event commenced an important partnership with Take Pride in America. It was my pleasure to recognize the City of Aurora as the first Denver metro area Take Pride in America City. The creation of the Take Pride in Aurora program is sure to benefit the citizens of this great community. Mayor Ed Tauer received the Take Pride City plaque on behalf of the City of Aurora. We were also delighted to have U.S. Representative Bob Beauprez, Colorado's 7th Congressional District, and Dick Poole, area representative for U.S. Senator Wayne Allard's office participating in the ceremony. Many thanks for putting on this wonderful event, just one of many examples of cities all over the country signing on to become Take Pride in America Cities.

Welcome aboard!

Sincerely,

Marti Allbright



Take Pride Awards Season is Open!

Take Pride is accepting nominations for the annual 2005 National Take Pride in America Awards. Nominations are being accepted in 12 categories through an on-line application at www.takepride.gov/awards/default.cfm. These categories include:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Individual | • Faith Based Group |
| • Youth/Youth Group | • Federal Land Managers |
| • School Program | • Federal Volunteer Program |
| K-6, 7-12, College | • Stave Event/Program |
| • Non-Profit Organization | • Local Government Event/
Program |
| • Corporation or Business | • Take Pride Partner |
| • Public/Private Partnership | |



Keep in mind only projects that began and/or were completed between June 1, 2004 and June 5, 2005 will be considered. The deadline for nominations is June 15, 2005. Please see the 2005 National Award Information document on the Web site for complete details.

Secretary Norton Awards Great Smoky Mtn. Volunteers

Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton was joined by Great Smoky Mountains National Park Deputy Superintendent Phil Francis to present seven Secretarial Level Take Pride in America Awards to volunteers of the Great Smoky National Park in a Washington, DC ceremony on March 3. These volunteers were part of the Outreach Education Team and each gave in excess of 3,000 hours of their time in support of the park. Two of their award recipients, Raymond Palmer and Tom Wainner, also received the Presidential Level Award for their contribution of more than 4,000 hours of volunteer time actively researching and participating in ed-

ucational and interpretive activities at the park. The Secretary stated, "By putting

er country. All of the actions done through Take Pride in America are animated by



Volunteers from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park receive Secretarial Awards for contributing more than 3,000 hours of volunteer service.

muscle into emotion, you have made the park a better place, and America a great-

that spirit. Because of the patriotism and the selflessness of individuals like you,

Take Pride is a great agency of service. I am proud of each of the people in Take Pride who have given — and who are giving — so much to the nation."

Over the past nine years, volunteer program activity at Great Smoky Mountains has increased by 115 percent. The park now has the largest volunteer program in the south east region, and the third largest in the entire park service.

If you would like more information on Volunteer Service Hour Awards, please visit our web site or contact the office at takepride@ios.doi.gov.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

Free Seeds Program a Success

America the Beautiful Fund is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the FREE SEED! program and partnering with Take Pride in America for the second year in a row to plant Take Pride in America Gardens across the country. As one of Take Pride's Charter Partners, America the Beautiful Fund is offering grants of free herb, vegetable and flower seeds for community planting projects. These grants of 100 to 2,000 seed packets are being offered on the basis of availability and relative need. Below are just some of the amazing things America the Beautiful Fund has accomplished.

- *Distributed and planted enough vegetable seeds to grow 1.75 billion pounds of food for the hungry.*
- *Saved more than 800 tons of seed and 7 million bulbs from going to waste in landfills.*
- *Planted 650,000 pounds of flower seed to beautify roads parks and neighborhoods across America.*

In 2004, nearly 1,700 Take Pride in America Gardens were planted using one million hours of volunteer time. Become a part of this great program, plant a Take Pride in America Garden in your community. For more information, visit www.free-seeds.us.

Civil War "Park Day"



Volunteers from last year's Civil War Park Day.

Saturday, April 2 is the ninth annual Civil War Preservation Trust "Park Day" at more than 80 locations across the country. In the past, preservation projects have included painting signs or cannon carriages, reinstalling headstones, laying trails, building fences, hauling trash out of streams and sweeping leaves. For more information on the Civil War Preservation Trust, please visit their website at www.civilwar.org. To check for a participating battlefield near you, visit www.TakePride.gov.

CITY SPOTLIGHT

Fort Collins Becomes a Take Pride City

The City of Fort Collins officially announced that it is a Take Pride in America City and unveiled Take Pride in Fort Collins at a designation ceremony held on March 15. In honor of this designation, the Office of U.S. Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave recognized 16 outstanding Fort Collins volunteers who have worked toward maintaining and enhancing our public lands.

Volunteers have been critical to many of the City's functions including keeping trails, parks and natural areas clean, preserving and promoting history at the Fort Collins Museum and the Farm at Lee Martinez Park, and helping establish the new Gardens on Spring Creek.

"The City of Fort Collins has outstanding support from volunteers who work toward the betterment of our community," said Mayor Ray Martinez. "Volunteers are integral in keeping our fine City the Choice City, and I am amazed at their dedication," he continued.

Volunteers with the City's Master Naturalist Program have donated nearly 10,000 hours and given 1,000 high quality programs to more than 35,000 people regarding natural areas. The City's Parks Division volunteers donated over 6,300 volunteer hours in 2004. Some of these individuals were among the recognized outstanding volunteers.

Participate in Earth Day

April 22nd!

Take Pride is celebrating the 35th Anniversary of Earth Day, April 22 with events across the country throughout that week. Earth Day occurs around the world with hundreds of thousands of nongovernmental organizations, governments, teachers, and faith-based groups, making plans to declare that they are



part of something extraordinary: a worldwide movement to enhance communities large and small, parks and beaches, and other natural sites. Take Pride has many activities on and around April 22, so check out our website for a listing and for more information, please visit www.earthday.gov.

BJ Nikkel, district director of the Office of U.S. Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave, honored 16 exceptional volunteers who have worked toward improving public lands. These volunteers received a special certificate and letter from Congresswoman Musgrave for their dedication.



Volunteers with Fort Collins Mayor Ray Martinez (center.)

Welcome to the newest Take Pride Cities...

Mayor Shirley Hall, Richland, MS
 Mayor Lawrence E. Leyens, Vicksburg, MS
 Mayor Samuel P. Rikard, Olive Branch, MS
 Mayor Ray Martinez, Fort Collins, CO
 Mayor Janet Taylor, Salem, OR

Capital River Relief Coming Up!

The second annual Capital River Relief project was kicked-off by Don Murphy, deputy director for the National Park Service on March 31 at Hains Point in Washington, DC. For the second year in a row Take Pride is participating in the Potomac and Anacostia River clean-up. The effort combines the capabilities of Living Lands and Waters, a national organization founded by environmental entrepreneur Chad Pregracke, with a large coalition of DC-based organizations, including the Alice Ferguson Foundation,

Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Potomac Conservancy and Anacostia Watershed Society. Last year, the project involved nearly 1,000 volunteers, who removed 50 tons of garbage from the banks of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.

This year, Department of the Interior personnel from the Washington, DC area are having their own "Take Pride in America Day," April 9, in support of this great event. For more information about the project, please visit www.capitalriverrelief.org.

Take Pride in Nebraska Day- Coming Up!

Nebraska joined the national Take Pride movement in 2004 at the direction of Governor Mike Johanns, and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission assumed the role of coordinating agency. More than 800 Nebraskans volunteered for the initial Take Pride in Nebraska Day at 31 selected state parks, historical sites, recreation areas and wildlife management areas in May of 2004. These Nebraska Game and Parks Commission properties benefited from 3,770 volunteer hours contributed during 2004 Take Pride Day Activities.



and camaraderie with other volunteers and contribute their time and energy to truly make a difference in our state parks."

In declaring May 7 as Nebraska's Take Pride in America Day in 2005, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Director Rex Amack said, "It's really impossible to overestimate the value of volunteers in our state. This is a wonderful opportunity to give something back to our communities."

Governor Johanns said the statewide project is "a wonderful opportunity for people to get outside, enjoy the spring weather

If you are in or near Nebraska on May 7, check out the wonderful opportunities to paint picnic tables, pick up litter or plant flowers at <http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/admin/volunteer/tpa.asp>.

National Youth Service Day Events

Take Pride in America is a national sponsor of National Youth Service Day, the largest service event in the world. Millions of youth will participate in the 17th Annual National Youth Service Day on April 15-17, 2005.

The goals of National Youth Service Day are:

To **MOBILIZE** youth to identify and address the needs of their communities through service,

To **SUPPORT** youth on a life-long path of service and civic engagement, and

To **EDUCATE** the public, the media, and policymakers about the year-round contributions of young people as community leaders. To find an event in your area please visit <http://www.ysa.org/nysd/> for a complete listing.



Changes at Take Pride in America!

Take Pride is proud to announce the addition of Jamie Yunnacone to our staff. Jamie will serve as an Associate Director of Take Pride in charge of communications. Welcome, Jamie!

For Your Information.....

We now have available the Take Pride in America Power Point presentation should you need one for an upcoming conference.

Please continue to send us your photos, event evaluation forms and write-ups of your events!

Email takepride@ios.doi.gov for our Power Point or if you have information for our newsletter. We look forward to highlighting you!

Family Motor Coach Association Event

Family Motor Coach Association, a Take Pride Charter Partner, held its 73rd International Convention in Perry, GA March 21-24. With nearly 6,500 coaches at the convention Take Pride was able to reach many outdoor enthusiasts with the Take Pride message through its exhibit and two seminar sessions. We appreciate FMCA's support of the Take Pride program and look forward to hosting FMCA member volunteer events in the future.

Thank you...

We want to thank our contributors for this edition of "In Touch With Take Pride," please continue sending us articles for future editions.

Sincerely,

Take Pride Staff